

# Polk County News

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## DEATH COMES TO JOHN A. MOON

Distinguished Public Servant Dies Sunday Morning After Long Slege of Illness

John Austin Moon ended a life of distinguished service at his residence, Oak street and Central avenue, at an early hour Sunday morning.

He was a man of such depth of character that it could not be measured by any casual soundings. For this reason, he has not been fully understood, even by his home people, and will not be until the passing of years shall have given a clear and prejudice-free viewpoint. Beyond doubt, he was destined to become a great judge, had he not been impelled to a wider and more stirring field of usefulness by his political and personal ambitions.

While on the bench he evinced certain rugged, stalwart traits of character as a jurist, which had only begun to attract attention when they were lost sight of in large measure by the attention that he began to attract as a hard hard working, conscientious, influential member of congress.

He was born April 22, 1855, in Albemarle county, Virginia, the son of William Franklin Moon, when but a year old his father moved to Georgia, and later to Alabama when the judge was 13 years of age.

The future congressman was educated in the Alabama public schools and King's college, Bristol. He was admitted to the bar in Alabama at the age of 19 years, and came to Chattanooga and began the practice of law when only 20 years of age.

It is a truth not very widely known that John Moon was admitted to the bar of Alabama at the age of 19, and to the Tennessee bar before he was of age. He came to Chattanooga in 1874, and began the practice of law without a partner, his first office being in the old Clippinger building, on the west side of Market street between Eighth and Ninth. His first law partner was the suave and erudite Col. Lawrence S. Maye, who had previously been a partner with the late P. A. Brawner, with the firm style of Maye & Brawner. Later Moon formed a partnership with Maj. E. M. Dodson, the firm name being Dodson & Moon. Other lawyers with whom he was associated were the late E. S. Daniels and the present chancellor, Hon. W. B. Garvin.

At the age of 26, Mr. Moon became city attorney of Chattanooga, and proved an efficient officer. In 1889 he was appointed circuit judge by the governor to succeed the veteran Judge D. C. Trewitt, whose death had made the office vacant. In 1892 he was elected to the office, defeating the late Maj. Charles R. Evans in a most spirited contest. This election was for a short term, and in 1894 he was again elected, this time defeating the late Col. W. J. ("Joe") Clift. This was a notable contest, Col. Clift proving himself a strong man before the people, notwithstanding common knowledge that his talents and tastes were much more for the field of advocacy than for the bench.

Judge Moon served until his election to congress in 1896, when he defeated Hon. Foster V. Brown. There he remained in continuous service for twenty-four years. His

congressional career was as faithful and as untiring as it was successful, and which brought him lasting prominence in the nation's affairs.

He was a jurist of exceptional attainments. His career upon the bench was marked by conspicuous success. He was what is spoken of as a constitutional lawyer, measuring the merits of every controversy by the great underlying principles of law which he understood so well and which it was his delight to study and to expound.

After Judge Moon had been in congress long enough to become seasoned and acquire important committee assignments, he began to attract the attention of important men in the body of both political parties. Particularly did he gain attention from Hon. Joe G. Cannon when he was speaker of the house, and it was not long before he was in truth a national figure. He had become that long before the home folks realized it, and on two great committees was a commanding personage. These were rivers and harbors, and postoffices and post roads. When he became chairman of the latter by seniority, he took place as one of the most important members of congress. He held the chairmanship and the full measure of strength and importance rightfully belonging to it until the change of administration in 1921.

The lock and dam at Hale's bar which has done so much both for commerce and for industry, and which will confer increasing benefits upon his home community for many generations, was one of his important achievements; but his work was as comprehensive as it was untiring. He had his generous share in every feature of the undertaking which is to make the Tennessee river a great artery in the world's commerce.

He more than any other man, is responsible for the comprehensive scheme to promote its navigation, which is now nearing completion.

What is perhaps his most distinguished service was rendered through the committee on postoffices and post roads. Beginning with a place upon this important committee, he rose to be its chairman, and the term of his service in that capacity is marked by the most far-reaching innovations which the postal service has known.

He drew the bill which provided for rural free delivery. He drew the bill which established the parcel post. He drew the bill which added aviation to postal facilities. These are but the outstanding features of a service which was noted for its high order of intelligence and faithfulness to a constituency.

But it was not in public matters alone that Judge Moon won and retained his eminence. His was a strong personality that made and kept its place among his neighbors. Warm hearted and loyal to his friends almost to a fault, his generous helpfulness cost him many a sacrifice. Many a time he seemed to jeopardize his political career through his unswerving loyalty. Many a time he suffered financial loss when he could ill afford it, that he might shield a friend. —Chattanooga News.

## JULY COUNTY COURT TO CONVENE MONDAY

Several Matters to Come Before The Court. The Most Important Is The Question of Taxes. A General Reduction in The Assessment Will Necessitate The Raising of The Rate.

The July quarterly term of the county court will convene here next Monday morning, and considerable business is expected to be transacted, the most important of which is the question of fixing the tax rate.

The County Tax Assessor, in making his assessment for this year reduced the assessment of copper companies in the neighborhood of 21 per cent. under last year's assessment, which reduction was sustained by the County Board of Equalizers.

The corporations of the county had paid attorneys in attendance before the board of equalizers from the time the board met until it adjourned, and some of the farmers charged that on that account the companies were enabled to hold their assessments down, and that the farmers and individual taxpayers were without representation and no reduction was made as to them. About twenty-five substantial farmers went to body before the board after the companies had been given a reduction, and asked that the board reduce the farmers and individual taxpayers in the same proportion as the companies, but the board refused to make such a reduction.

An effort is being made to have the court take some action and try to have the individual taxpayers represented before the State Board and see if the assessment of the copper companies

can not be raised to what it was last year or the farmers and individual tax payers lowered in same proportion as the companies, but such an effort is likely to prove fruitless as R. L. Kirkpatrick, an employee of the Ducktown Copper Company, is a member of the State Board of Equalizers, and, no doubt, would use all his influence in holding the assessment down to what the Assessor put it.

There is no question but that the lowering of the copper companies and other corporations will necessitate the raising of the tax rate. The present assessment of the county is \$14,500,000, and the decrease is approximately \$2,000,000.

The present indebtedness of the county is in the neighborhood of \$641,892.00, 90 per cent. of which the county is paying 8 per cent. interest on.

Hon. A. E. Love has been checking and figuring up the indebtedness of the county and calculating the tax income in order to see if he could arrive at the amount of increase in rate it will take to carry the county over, and he has figured that with the assessment as it now stands, and assuming that the assessment of the utilities corporations will be reduced in proportion to the companies, and assuming that expenses will be the same as for last year, it will take a tax rate of \$2.27 as against \$1.06 last year.

stand. It became known today, however, that Mr. Carden was not permitted to resign by letter Monday, but that he was instructed to wire in his resignation. Friends of the deposed insurance commissioner are asking why his resignation became a matter of such pressing importance that he was not permitted to resign by mail, and also are asking if the matters brought out in investigation by legislative committee, or rumored about political circles, had any bearing on his dismissal, why the delay of two months or more in requesting his resignation?

It is also being asked in certain quarters why, if Mr. Carden's resignation was desired instantly, he was permitted to remain in office several months during which time his department handled several thousands of dollars without any protest.

Peace Is Declared

Reports from Washington, are to the effect that a conference agreement has been reached whereby it is declared that war with Germany and Austria is at an end.

The first section of the text of the conference agreement reads: "That the state of war declared to exist between the imperial German government and the United States of America, by the joint resolution of congress approved April 6, 1917, is hereby declared at an end."

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From Gov. Taylor's talk it was apparent that he was somewhat displeased with Commissioner Carden's recent action in appointing an accuracy from outside the state, the place having been tendered an Indianapolis man.

"That appointment will not stand if I can prevent it," said the governor. The other appointment made by Mr. Carden was a Tennessee boy, however, and the governor indicated he would probably permit that appointment to stand.

## ENJOYED TRIP TO LAKE JUNALUSKA

By Rev. J. M. Walker

Our trip to Lake Junaluska, N. C. was a pleasant and enjoyable one.

We left Benton June 14th, at 5 a.m. going by the way of Etowah, Athens, Sweet water, Knoxville, Morristown and Greenville to Baileyton, Tenn. reaching there at 6:30 p.m. a distance of 220 miles.

We remained with our daughter for a week putting in the time fishing. To say the fishing was a success is to state it mildly. We resumed our trip June 21 by the way of Newport, Tenn.

Owing to the condition of the road at a certain point in the N. C. mountains we left our "Ford" at Newport and finished the trip by rail.

At 1 o'clock p.m. we found that we were in Asheville, a beautiful city. Here wife and I enjoyed a cup of coffee the color which was "chestnut sorrel" my! what a brace it was.

Lake Junaluska is 28 miles west of Asheville and we arrived there about 5 p.m. and found the place very much alive with preachers their wives and others.

We lived at "Cherokee Hotel" (they don't allow one to say board)

but live and living it was, the very best, chicken, boiled ham, beef, mutton, tomatoes, coffee, tea, milk and every thing to make you want more.

The classes and lectures begun at 8 a.m. and continued till 1 p.m. Eastern time.

We entered classes with representatives from nineteen states which was interesting indeed all the instructors and lecturers were fine however, Dr. Goddard appealed to me most. These classes and lectures continue for four year periods and give students who graduate university training and degree, most all of us signed up for the four year course.

Lake Junaluska is beautiful beyond my ability to describe it, it is about one and one half miles long and almost one mile wide boat riding, fishing and bathing are very much enjoyed. The Lake covers something like 300 acres or more of land.

We arrived home June 28th 9 p.m. with gladness.

We feel greatly indebted to those who made it possible for us to make the trip, and should anyone who assisted read these lines we say "Thank you."

## Pardons Granted Joe Arp Found

Not Guilty

Was Accused of Killing C. D. Walters

A. R. Arp and C. J. Smith have returned from Maryville, where they went to be in attendance at the trial of Mr. Arp's brother Joe. The body of Cecil D. Walters was found on the Niles Ferry road near the home of Joe Arp, last January, and Mr. Arp was accused of killing Walters. He was given a preliminary hearing and bound to the circuit court of Blount county, and was tried there early last week and was exonerated from all blame in connection with the killing.

## Typhoid Fatal To Father and Son

Craven Miller, a well known citizen of this county, and his son of 14 years, died at the family residence in the Cookson Creek neighborhood Monday night, death being due to typhoid fever.

Mr. Miller was fifty odd years of age, and was a former member of the county court of this county. He was also a member of the Masonic order.

Funeral services were held over the remains of the father and son at Cookson Creek church at 10 o'clock today (Thursday) interment following in the church cemetery.

The Masons were in charge of the funeral at the grave of the elder Miller.

## Birth Announcement

Cards announcing the birth of a daughter on June 25, at Lebanon, to Mr. and Mrs. Winston H. Prince have been received. The little one has been named Panthea Page.